REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 21, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendments and following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. Claims 1-42 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bahrs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,654,932) ("Bahrs") is respectfully traversed.

Preliminarily, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion within the Office Action that the term "testing" as recited in the claims of the present application and as used in the specification, is equivalent of the term "validate" as used in Bahrs. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "validation" as defined in Bahrs (see Col. 21, Lines 24-55) is not analogous to the testing of at least one rule incrementally using the selected asset data, wherein testing as defined in the present specification includes comparing an asset output to an expected asset output.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion within the Office Action that the recitation of "generating at least one rule" as used in the present application is analogous to the phrase "take a user-input string and generate an output" as used in Bahrs. Specifically, applicants respectfully submit that the recitation of "generating an output" is not analogous to the claimed recitation of "generating at least one rule" wherein the generation is based on the relation between asset input and asset output.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion within the Office Action that the recitation of "monitor the output of the at least one rule" as used in the present application is analogous to the phrase "take a user-inputted string and generates an output" as used in Bahrs. Applicants respectfully submit that the action of "generating an output," as used in Bahrs, is not analogous to monitoring the output of the at least one rule at each increment to determine if the asset output matches the respective expected asset output.

Bahrs describes a method for validating user input. The method is implemented on a distributed data processing system (100). Cases describing functions of an application that are most reused, for example, a ViewController that uses a ValidationRule, are developed by

first identifying the actors in the system. A specific business validation rule is selected (step 3200), and a class that extends the ValidationRule is created (step 3203). The ValidationRule may edit and/or normalize (steps 3204 and/or 3206) user-inputted data. An edit( ) method uses user-inputted data to generate a formatted output for display. A normalize( ) method uses user-inputted or formatted data to generate a normalized output for transmitting to storage (step 3206). The ValidationRule compares the user-inputted data against the selected business rule (step 3208) to validate the user-inputted data. If the user-inputted data is not valid, a ValidationRuleException is performed (step 3210), and the method terminates. If the data is valid, the method terminates. Notably, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest generating a rule based on a pre-existing relationship between an input and an output. Rather, Bahrs describes selecting a validation rule to test user-inputted data.

Claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method of managing a machinery monitoring system, the method including "relating an asset output to at least one asset input wherein the at least one asset input includes at least one of a measured process parameter and a derived process parameter relatable to the asset output . . . generating at least one rule based on the relation wherein the at least one rule defines the asset output based on the at least one asset input . . . selecting at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied asset data to test the at least one rule . . . determining an expected asset output for the selected data . . . testing the at least one rule incrementally using the selected asset data and by comparing each asset output to each respective expected asset output . . . monitoring the output of the at least one rule at each increment, and . . . outputting a test result."

Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a computer-implemented method of managing a machinery monitoring system as is recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a method that includes testing a rule incrementally using selected asset data wherein testing comprises comparing the asset output to the respective expected asset output. Rather, Bahrs describes testing user-inputted data using only a selected validation rule. Furthermore, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a method that includes selecting at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied asset data to test at least one rule, and then testing the at least one rule incrementally using the

11

selected asset data wherein the testing includes comparing the asset output to expected asset output. Rather, Bahrs describes selecting a validation rule to test user-inputted data.

Moreover, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a method that includes generating a rule based on a pre-existing relationship between an input and an output wherein the at least one rule defines said asset output using a combination of said at least one asset input. Rather, Bahrs describes selecting a validation rule based only on user-inputted data. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Bahrs.

Claims 2-14 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-14 likewise are patentable over Bahrs.

Claim 15 recites a computer-implemented machinery monitoring system for a plant, the system including a client system further including "a user interface . . . a database for storing Rule Sets, wherein the Rule Sets include at least one rule expressed as a relational expression of a real-time data output relative to a real-time data input that includes at least one of a measured process parameter and a derived process parameter relatable to the real-time data output, wherein the relational expression is specific to a plant asset, and . . . a processor programmed to control said machinery monitoring system to, said processor manager programmed to prompt a user for a security control password . . . generate a plant asset operational rule from an application expert wherein the operational rule defines the real-time data output based on the at least one real-time data input . . . test said rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data, wherein the test includes comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output . . . display incremental results of said test, and . . . output a test result."

Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a computer-implemented machinery monitoring system for a plant as is recited in Claim 15. Specifically, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a system that includes a processor programmed to test a rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data wherein the test comprises comparing the real-time output to an expected real-time output. Rather, Bahrs describes testing user-inputted data using only a selected validation rule. Furthermore, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a processor programmed to generate a plant asset

12

operational rule from an application expert wherein said input includes a measured process parameter or a derived process parameter relatable to the real-time output. Rather, Bahrs describes selecting a validation rule based on user-inputted data.

Moreover, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a system that includes Rule Sets that include at least one rule expressed as a relational expression of a real-time data output relative to a real-time data input, wherein the input comprises a measured or derived process parameter relatable to the asset output, and further wherein the relational expression is specific to a plant asset. Rather, Bahrs describes business validation rules that edit and/or normalize user-inputted data. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Bahrs.

Claims 16-28 depend from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claims 16-28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16-28 likewise are patentable over Bahrs.

Claim 29 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing a machinery monitoring system using a server system coupled to a client system and a database, the client system including a user interface, the program comprising a code segment that prompts a user for a security control password and then "relates an asset output to at least one asset input that includes at least one of a measured process parameter and a derived process parameter relatable to the asset output . . . generates a plant asset operational rule from an application expert wherein the operational rule defines an asset output based on at least one asset input . . . tests said rule based on at least on of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data wherein the testing includes comparing the asset output to a respective expected asset output . . . displays incremental results of said test, and . . . outputs said results of said test."

Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing a machinery monitoring system as is recited in Claim 29. Specifically, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a computer program that tests a rule based on at least one of live asset data, historical asset data, user-supplied asset data, and third party supplied data wherein the testing includes comparing the asset output to the respective expected asset output. Rather, Bahrs describes testing user-inputted data using only a
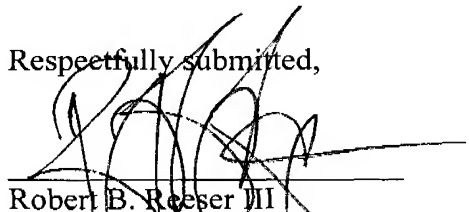
13

selected validation rule. Furthermore, Bahrs does not describe nor suggest a computer program that generates a plant asset operational rule from an application expert wherein the operational rule defines an asset output using a combination of at least one asset input. Rather, Bahrs describes selecting a validation rule based on user-inputted data. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 29 is submitted to be patentable over Bahrs.

Claims 30-42 depend from independent Claim 29. When the recitations of Claims 30-42 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 29, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 30-42 likewise are patentable over Bahrs.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-42 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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